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THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" I think, Sir, I was once a lawyer myself and that is enough for this." (Laughter.)

Alleged selling of intoxicating drinks in chemists shops.

* 68 Q.—SRI M. NARAYANA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Prohibition be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have any information that some chemists shops have become regular bar houses and whether Tincture Zingiberis and other intoxicating drinks are sold there in large quantities ; and

(b) what action has been taken or is proposed to be taken to put an end to such trade?

THE HON. SRI N. SANJEEVA REDDI :—" (a) & (b) The Government have received representations regarding the misuse by liquor addicts of certain medicinal preparations like Tincture Zingiberis. Orders have therefore been issued that those preparations which are being misused should be sold only by those possessing licences under the Madras Prohibition Act and in limited quantities not exceeding one quart in the case of patent preparations and 2 ounces at a time in the case of British Pharmacoepia preparations on the prescription of a qualified medical practitioner. Additional restriction will be imposed if necessary after watching the effect of these orders."

DR. P. S. SRINIVASAN :—" May I inquire whether Government are aware that these restrictions are imposed on registered medical practitioners also? "

THE HON. SRI N. SANJEEVA REDDI :—" Quite possible, as the quantity with them has also to be controlled."

DR. P. S. SRINIVASAN :—" May I know whether the Government are aware that it has caused hardship among many medical practitioners because the tincture is to be used every day in almost every prescription? "

THE HON. SRI N. SANJEEVA REDDI :—" Because of the terrible misuse of it, we had to control it; and quite possibly there is some inconvenience to medical practitioners, but it cannot be helped."

DR. P. S. SRINIVASAN :—" May I know whether it is because doctors misused it in giving prescriptions that they are also brought under the control? "

THE HON. SRI N. SANJEEVA REDDI :—" It may not be so. People who got the medicine from the doctors might have parted with it to others for misuse."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know, Sir, which department of Government exercise control regarding this order? "

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THE HON. SRI N. SANJEEVA REDDI :—" The Prohibition Department."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Do Prohibition staff go to every dispensary or shop of the druggist and chemist and examine his transactions? "

THE HON. SRI N. SANJEEVA REDDI :—" No, Sir. Whenever they get information of misuse, they go to the shop and examine his transactions."

DR. P. S. SRINIVASAN :—" Are not the Government aware that the Prohibition staff went to every dispensary in the Chingleput district and seized every bottle of the tinctures mentioned and sealed? "

THE HON. SRI N. SANJEEVA REDDI :—" Yes, Sir, in the beginning they did so, so that they may know how much quantity is available and take steps to see that it may not be misused."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know why Government did not consult the medical practitioners what their requirements are, prescribe the quantity required by them and then control the excess quantities? "

THE HON. SRI N. SANJEEVA REDDI :—" Before anything can be done in that direction, we have first to know what quantity is available, and for that we have to seize the stock and label it."

DR. A. LAKSHMANASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" May I know whether Government will call a conference of medical practitioners to find out how exactly the hardship of medical practitioners can be alleviated? "

THE HON. SRI N. SANJEEVA REDDI :—" It will be considered."

DR. P. S. SRINIVASAN :—" Is it a fact, Sir, that a licence fee of fifteen rupees is imposed on every medical practitioner and that it is to be levied every year hereafter? "

THE HON. SRI N. SANJEEVA REDDI :—" Yes, Sir."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know, Sir, why in the case of medical practitioners they should be asked to pay the fee? "

THE HON. SRI N. SANJEEVA REDDI :—" It is a sort of control just to have an account of the amount disbursed through dispensaries."

SRI M. NARAYANA MENON :—" May I know whether in the forthcoming conference the Government include Ayurvedic physicians also? "

THE HON. SRI N. SANJEEVA REDDI :—" They will have a separate conference."

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SRI N. VENKATACHALAMAJI :—" Have Government paid the cost of the stocks freezed by the Prohibition Police? "

THE HON. SRI N. SANJEEVA REDDI :—" No, Sir, they will be allowed to sell them to licenced doctors."

DR. P. S. SRINIVASAN :—" May I know why Government should not give free licence to medical practitioners? "

THE HON. SRI N. SANJEEVA REDDI :—" No, Sir, that will be very difficult."

Boring sets and power drills.

* 69 *Q*.—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of boring sets and power drills with the Department of Industries available for the use of the public;

(*b*) the terms on which they are available;

(*c*) the cost of the staff employed for maintaining these sets and drills;

(*d*) the income that accrued to the Government on account of hire charges during 1946–47, 1947–48 and 1948–49;

(*e*) the number of borings attempted during 1946–47, 1947–48 and 1948–49;

(*f*) the number of successful borings during these years;

(*g*) whether there is a proposal to increase the number of boring sets and power drills; and

(*h*) whether it is proposed to transfer this part of the work to the Department of Agriculture as recommended by the Retrenchment Committee?

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI (on behalf of the Hon. Minister for Industries) :—" (*a*) 153 hand-boring sets and 23 power drills are available with the department for being hired out to the public.

" (*b*) A booklet [a] containing the information is placed on the table of the House.

" (*c*) The cost of the staff engaged on the maintenance of 153 boring sets and 23 power drills is approximately Rs. 1,26,600 per annum and Rs. 45,600 per annum respectively inclusive of allowances.

" (*d*) The gross income that accrued to Government on account of hire charges during 1946–47, 1947–48 and 1948–49 is approximately as follows :—

	RS.
1946–47	1,27,717
1947–48	1,04,960
1948–49	72,831

[a] Printed as Appendix IV on pages 799–810 infra.